

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 172.021, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) A candidate for the office of chief justice or justice, supreme court, or presiding judge or judge, court of criminal appeals, who chooses to pay the filing fee must also accompany the application with a petition that complies with the requirements prescribed for a petition authorized by Subsection (b), except that the minimum number of signatures that must appear on the petition required by this subsection is 50 from each court of appeals district.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

Passed by the House on April 2, 2003, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 22, 2003: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 18, 2003.

Effective September 1, 2003.

CHAPTER 220

H.B. No. 415

AN ACT

relating to state funding of courses offered for joint high school and junior college credit.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 130.008(d), Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 2. Section 42.005, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) If a student may receive course credit toward the student's high school academic requirements and toward the student's higher education academic requirements for a single course, the time during which the student attends the course may not be counted as part of the minimum number of instructional hours required for a student to be considered a full-time student in average daily attendance for purposes of this section. This subsection expires September 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

Passed by the House on May 10, 2003, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 28, 2003: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 18, 2003.

Effective September 1, 2003.

CHAPTER 221

H.B. No. 462

AN ACT

relating to the collection of a fee from certain nonresident attorneys requesting permission to participate in proceedings in a Texas court.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 82, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 82.0361 to read as follows:

Sec. 82.0361. NONRESIDENT ATTORNEY FEE. (a) In this section, "nonresident attorney" means a person who resides in and is licensed to practice law in another state but who is not a member of the State Bar of Texas.

(b) *Except as provided by Subsection (e), a nonresident attorney requesting permission to participate in proceedings in a court in this state shall pay a fee of \$250 for each case in which the attorney is requesting to participate. The attorney shall pay the fee to the Board of Law Examiners before filing with the applicable court a motion requesting permission to participate in proceedings in that court as provided by rules adopted by the supreme court.*

(c) *Fees under this section shall be collected in the same manner as other fees collected by the Board of Law Examiners. The board shall remit the fees collected under this section to the comptroller not later than the 10th day after the end of each calendar quarter.*

(d) *The comptroller shall deposit the fees received under this section to the credit of the basic civil legal services account of the judicial fund for use in programs approved by the supreme court that provide basic civil legal services to the indigent.*

(e) *The supreme court may adopt rules to waive or reduce the fee required by this section for a nonresident attorney who seeks to represent an indigent person in proceedings in a court in this state.*

(f) *A nonresident attorney who files a motion requesting permission to participate in proceedings in a court in this state shall provide to that court proof of payment of the fee required by this section. The supreme court by rule shall prescribe the method of proof.*

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a nonresident attorney who files a motion to participate in a proceeding in a Texas court on or after the effective date of this Act. A nonresident attorney who filed a motion to participate in a proceeding before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the motion was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

Passed by the House on April 3, 2003, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 21, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 18, 2003.

Effective September 1, 2003.

CHAPTER 222

H.B. No. 508

AN ACT

relating to notice of an increase in certain rates or charges for certain group policies or contracts.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Article 3.51–10, Insurance Code, as effective June 1, 2003, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 3.51–10. NOTICE OF PREMIUM RATE INCREASE. (a) Not less than 60 [30] days before the date on which a premium rate increase takes effect on a group policy of health, accident and health, or life, health, and accident insurance delivered or issued for delivery in this state by a life, accident, health or casualty insurance company, mutual life insurance company, mutual insurance company other than life, mutual or natural premium life insurance company, general casualty company, Lloyds, reciprocal or interinsurance exchange, fraternal benefit society, group hospitalization service insurer, or local mutual aid association, the insurer shall give written notice of the premium rate increase to the policyholder or in the instance of a multiple employer trust to the trustee or group policyholder of the amount of such increase and the date on which the increase is to take effect. Such notice is also required for increases in subscriber charges and service fees under group policies or contracts or coverage provided by health maintenance organizations. Notice shall be based upon coverages in effect on the date of the notice and nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the insurer or health maintenance organization from negotiating changes in benefits and/or rates at the request of the policyholder after the required notice has been delivered.